

Carnahan to Host Meth Summit in Ste. Genevieve

Tom Weber, KWMU

Police, fire, emergency and elected officials in Sainte Genevieve County will discuss the problem of methamphetamine today (Monday).

Congressman Russ Carnahan is hosting the summit, saying meth can't just be a state-by-state problem. He also says meth isn't just a problem for police anymore.

"It's really impacted our health care system, our schools, our foster care system, where many of the kids going into foster care now are coming from these meth homes where they've been exposed," Carnahan said last week.

"It's really a broad-ranging problem that we really need to address with a national policy."

Carnahan is supporting three pieces of legislation in Washington, two of which would make federal money available for a number of meth-related issues.

The feds may also require all drugs with pseudo-ephedrine in them be sold only by a pharmacist; but that already happens in Missouri, thanks to a new state law. Pseudo-ephedrine is a key ingredient in meth.

Jefferson County has gotten a lot of attention because it has led the state in number of meth lab busts in recent years.

But Carnahan says it's important to have today's meeting in next-door Ste. Genevieve County.

"As the law enforcement has gotten more successful in Jefferson County it has tended to push the meth cooks and producers out to the surrounding areas.

"As we get successful in one area it tends to move to another."